

enactment of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-508). In FY2004, the tax raised \$141 million in revenue, up from \$71 million in FY2000.

Again, the Congressional Research Service analyzed the SUV exemption from the gas guzzler tax, noting that by exempting SUVs, demand for heavy-duty SUVs is likely to be greater than it would be if they were subject to the tax and buyers were forced to bear its burden. Since most heavy-duty SUVs get relatively low gas mileage, retail prices could be as much as \$4,500 to \$7,700 higher for many models if current law were changed to subject them to the tax and importers, manufacturers, and dealers were to pass the full amount of the tax on to buyers.

In applying the gas guzzler tax to SUVs, the legislation makes certain exceptions for vehicles clearly intended for carrying heavy loads, pick up trucks with open beds, and so forth.

For years we have stood idly by while watching our energy dependence soar as consumers responded to these perverse loopholes and upside-down tax incentives. The health of our environment and the safety of those purchasing small vehicles is affected adversely by giving preferences to inefficient SUVs. While we complain that China is now affecting demand for world oil, we continue to tolerate a tax code which artificially skews in favor of the purchase of the least efficient vehicles.

We no longer have the luxury of ignoring this ridiculous situation. Please join us in supporting efforts to reform this self-inflicted source of wasted gasoline and oil.

BYRNE-JAG FUNDING

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Byrne-JAG funding for state and local anti-drug task forces. This program is critical to supporting the dedicated police officers combating the meth epidemic sweeping our nation.

Methamphetamine is an extremely dangerous drug. In San Joaquin County, California, part of my congressional district, meth has been the most deadly drug for four years running. Even worse, the impact of meth spreads far beyond just the self destructive behavior of the meth addict. In the Central Valley, meth has resulted in higher crime rates, child abuse and neglect, and toxic waste released into the environment.

The Byrne-JAG program should be an important part of any effective strategy to stop the devastating impact that methamphetamine use is having on our communities. Byrne funding supports anti-drug task forces that bring together federal, state, and local law enforcement and that have proven very effective in disrupting meth production and trafficking. In 2004 alone, Byrne-funded task forces seized 5,646 meth labs.

The Administration's meth strategy released last week sets a goal of reducing the number of domestic meth labs by 25% by 2008. Now is not the time to eliminate a program that provides our local and state law enforcement with the resources to achieve this goal.

I urge my colleagues in the Appropriations Committee to fully fund the Byrne-JAG program.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM E. REICHMUTH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant and transportation visionary. William E. Reichmuth is retiring from his three year tenure as the executive director of the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, known locally as TAMC. This position tops a thirty-eight year career of public service that began with the United States Navy's Civil Engineer Corps where he reached the rank of Captain and received the Navy Commendation Medal. Bill later held public works and engineering posts with both the U.S. Army and the City of Monterey. Throughout this career, Bill has been both a model to his profession and a leader in his community.

Bill has overseen numerous key public works projects and innovations. As the City of Monterey's public works director, Bill oversaw the redevelopment of the City's two commercial wharfs that are at the heart of its fishing and tourism industries. He also helped craft Monterey's contract to manage the Defense Language Institute's base operations, saving the Army millions of dollars and thereby helping to ward off efforts to close or relocate the Institute in the latest base closure round.

On the transportation front, Bill has been on innovation's cutting edge. He has shepherded the design of the Monterey County portions of a coastal trail project that will one day link Monterey and Santa Cruz in a continuous bike and pedestrian path. Though neither of us could be mistaken for Lance Armstrong, I share every bit of Bill's contagious enthusiasm for the bike trail's recreational and economic development potential. Bill also played a key role in facilitating TAMC's purchase of the Monterey Branch Line from Southern Pacific Railroad. This will give our region new transportation options. And while Bill has set the pace on alternative transportation, he has paid great attention to road and highway needs that are crucial to a rural community such as Monterey County. Under his leadership, TAMC has advanced projects to ease the highway congestion that affects the region's agricultural produce, many visitors, and residents alike. He has made a special focus of safety; for example, improving the entrance into Monterey's Ryan Ranch office park.

Bill has been an active member of his professional community, serving in a variety of leadership posts with the American Public Works Association and the California Society of Professional Engineers. He also serves as a lector at the Carmel Mission Basilica. Finally, no description of Bill's life and work is complete without reference to his other transportation passions, namely an addiction to cars. Bill loves sports cars; especially new sports cars. I am told that something as little as a needed oil change is enough to prompt Bill to trade up to the latest model of Porsche. Bill is an amateur racer and has served as the president of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for my colleagues when I applaud Bill Reichmuth's career of public service and wish him a happy and speedy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI BRAD BLOOM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor Rabbi Brad Bloom, the Senior Rabbi at B'nai Israel since 1995, who is leaving this week for a new pulpit after a distinguished professional career here in Sacramento. As his friends, family and coworkers all gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join in honoring his community leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

After Rabbi Bloom completed his BA in History from the University of Wisconsin and his Master's in Social Work from the University of Maryland, he realized his calling in life: the rabbinate. He began his career by serving as the Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills.

Following his service with the Congregation, Rabbi Bloom was Associate Rabbi at the Sinai Temple of Champaign-Urbana in Illinois. In 1995 he became the Senior Rabbi at Congregation B'nai Israel, where he has served with distinction for the past 11 years.

Rabbi Bloom has been a strong leader for B'nai Israel. He guided a devastated congregation and the greater Sacramento community through one of its darkest hours in June of 1999, when arsonists attacked three of Sacramento's synagogues, including his own.

Rabbi Bloom's calm, uniting voice emerged from the dense fog of hate and fear in the weeks and months following the attacks. He revived the community's spirits and helped bring forward a united front against hate. In order to build a dialogue, he helped create the Children of Abraham group, which brings together clergy and congregants of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths. And under his leadership, the synagogue opened its door to gay and lesbian Jews to perform commitment ceremonies inside the sanctuary.

Through it all Rabbi Bloom has been dedicated to cultivating a strong and thriving Jewish community. With his gifts as a teacher, he has shown a commitment to life-long learning and instilling that value in others. He has led adult education groups, including Talmud classes, Kabbalah courses and a women's book group. These unique programs have helped educate and unite the Jewish community.

Since 1995, Rabbi Bloom has been a strong voice for B'nai Israel, and helped foster compassion and understanding throughout our community. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Rabbi Brad Bloom for his public service as we wish him success in his future endeavors.